InDu Bois E-5 (1938-1939) 1944
CF5 Alor CF5

[illegible] coast of Kalabahi on the western bay to Kokora on the east coast, but by
[illegible] pushing himself a native can walk the distance in some four days. The
usual time allowed by officials on horseback is five. It does not seem
improbable, therefore, that linguistic variation has been fostered by the
difficulty of communication.

[illegible] Culturally too, changes grade from one into the other as one passes
[illegible] from village to village. The only sharp demarcations are between the
ten thousand coastal Mohammedans and the pagan mountain peoples of
the interior. These two groups hold each other in mutual disgust and
[illegible] fear. At the end of the nineteenth century Chinese merchants began
[illegible] trading on the coast. After the arrival of the first Dutch official in about
1908 coastal men have been designated as radjahs by the Dutch and
have been given control over the interior. This control was only gradu-
ally extended and was considered by the Hollanders still to be in prog-
ress, since Malay is not yet widely known in the interior and taxes are
still reluctantly paid. Prior to the Hollanders' arrival no such areas of
political organization existed; social control centered about kin and
village groups. Certainly the coastal people exercised no power over
the mountain population, despite brisk trade contacts at stipulated mar-
ket places.

[illegible] At present the island is divided into four radjahships: Alor proper
[illegible] (including the islands of Pura and Pantar), Kui, Barakieng, and Ko-
[illegible] lana. These political divisions cut across both culture and language. Un-
der each radjah are kapitans who, with the assistance of a handful of
field police, administer smaller districts. The principal functions of the
radjahs and kapitans are collecting taxes and hearing litigations. A chief
called the kapala (Malay for head) has been appointed for these tasks
in each village, and groups of friendly villages have been unified under
a headman called a tumukung. This hierarchy is a Dutch innovation, but
it has been quite heartily accepted by the native population, with
whom it functions successfully. The system of litigation, however, has
been far more completely accepted than the system of taxation.

[illegible] The government of the Netherlands East Indies is represented by a
civil administrator of controleur rank and by a military authority of
lieutenant's rank in charge of a garrison of some seventy Indonesian
troops. Two or three patrols of fifteen men are constantly on the move
through the island, often cutting across the most difficult terrain and
always without announcing their routes of travel. In addition there is a
military doctor, who is responsible for the health of the entire popula-
tion. He has a hospital in Kalabahi and a small corps of Indonesian at-
tendants with limited training.